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brings forth more facts for the theory, now established, that man's original condition was one of barbarism—one, in which, the bestial predominated. This theory, in fact, needs no further demonstration, and may be said to be accepted by the scientific world.

The essence of the argument of the first two essays is that man early secured a modicum of law, as shown in selecting one as a leader; and as that tended to bind together each little community, so it became powerful and warred successfully with the neighboring men, who were held in no restraint, by the *natural* selection of one of superior parts, who would be a leader, by the admiration he caused among his fellows.\*

When this "law" was powerful enough to make men mere facsimiles of other men, progress was at an end—the imperfectly developed civilization crystallized. "Progress," he says "is only possible in those happy cases where the force of legality has gone far enough to bind the nation together, but not far enough to kill out all the varieties and destroy nature's perpetual tendency to change."

This argumentation is carried out more fully in the following chapters on "Nation making" and the "Age of Discussion;" and as the author never loses sight of the theory of evolution, "which, if it be not proved conclusively, has great probability and great scientific analogy in its favor," it is interesting and instructive to the scientific reader to see these principles, which are so generally applied to mere genera and species, successfully, we think, handled in the elucidation of some puzzling anthropological problems.—C. C. A.

POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY.†—After carefully reading this journal, since its first appearance nearly a year ago, we can say that it is doing a good work for science in this country by commending the labors of scientific men, and raising the minds of the laity into the scientific atmosphere. Scientific thought is something distinct from the average thought of our age and people, whether expressed

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\*Mr. Bagshot only proposes to explain how the various nations may have arisen, and not how the well worked races became so distinctly characteristic as they are. This subject he touches upon, but only to refer to it. There seems much probability however in the suggestion, that natural selection, in races, as in nations, produced the differences as they now exist, but it may be, at an earlier period, when mankind was more pithecoïd in his nature.

†The Popular Science Monthly. Conducted by E. L. Youmans. New York; D. Appleton & Co. 8vo. Each number 128 pp. With illustrations.

in our commercial, literary or religious papers. It is the mental air that Galileo, Goethe, Newton, Kant, Linnæus, Cuvier, Rumford, and the scientific lights of our own day have created; and nothing but sound mental health, a hearty love of truth, and greater happiness will result from breathing such air. Science is the expression of the common sense of all ages. It tends more than any other study to develop common sense in the individual.

This journal does not cultivate a special department of science but aims at persuading men that science is to be cultivated not only for its own sake, but as directly increasing human health and happiness.

The only fault we have to find is that the papers, most of which are selected from the scientific thinkers of England, do not perhaps fairly represent American thought, for certainly we have men of as much ability as the authors of many of the papers that have been reprinted in this journal, could they be induced to write. Again in the department of Reviews is an excellent opportunity, of which due advantage is not taken, of eliciting the best thought of our working chemists, naturalists, geologists and astronomers. American scientists have a duty to perform in impressing the value of science upon our politicians and rulers. We believe in the Platonic marriage of Science and the State.

HALF HOUR RECREATIONS IN POPULAR SCIENCE.\*—This admirable series of reprints contains papers entitled "Strange Discoveries respecting the Aurora and recent Solar Researches," by R. A. Proctor; "the Cranial Affinities of Man and the Ape," by Prof. R. Virchow; "Spectrum Analysis Discoveries," by the editor; "Nebulæ, Meteoric Showers, and Comets; and Unconscious Action of the Brain, and Epidemic Delusions," by Dr. Carpenter. Prof. A. Winchell has prepared a number on the "Geology of the Stars" which is in press. This series is to be followed by the publication of "Half Hour Recreations in Natural History," to consist of several volumes, entitled "Half Hours with Insects, with Birds, Wild Animals, Domestic Animals, Reptiles, Plants, Trees, and Fishes. Each volume is to be carefully prepared by an expert. We are glad to have such works freely disseminated. They are popular in style and will be found to be very readable by persons not versed in science.

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\*Half Hour Recreations in Popular Science. Dana Estes, editor. Estes & Lauriat, Boston. 12mo. Each number 32 or 36 pages. With illustrations.